

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of authenticating the user (U) of a terminal (2) connected to an Internet type network, wherein the method being ~~characterized in that it~~ comprises the ~~following~~ steps of:

setting up (E15) a communications channel in a secure mobile telephony network (GSM) between mobile equipment (3) of said user (U) situated close to the terminal (2) and an authentication unit (1) connected to said Internet type network;

the terminal (2) downloading (E30) via said Internet type network a digital code from said authentication unit (1);

said mobile equipment (3) sending (E40) a sound signal to said authentication unit (1), the sound signal being generated (E35) by the terminal (2) on the basis of said digital code; and

authenticating said user (U) on the basis:

of the sound signal received (E40) via said mobile communications channel (GSM); and

of an identifier (GSM\_No) of said mobile equipment (3).

2. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said mobile equipment (3) is a mobile telephone and said identifier of said mobile equipment (3) is its telephone number.

3. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said mobile equipment (3) complies with the GSM standard, and said identifier of said mobile equipment is its IMEI code.

4. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it includes~~ further comprising the step of creating a digital audio file (.WAV) from said digital code, said digital audio file being adapted to run automatically on the terminal (2) in order to generate said sound signal.

5. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ wherein in order to proceed with said authentication, said identification unit (1):

- samples (E45) the sound signal received by GSM (E40); and
- compares (E45) the result of said sampling with a copy of said digital code stored by said authentication unit (1).

6. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ wherein said sound signal is a DTMF code sequence.

7. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it further comprises~~ comprising a step (E20) of randomly generating said digital code prior to said downloading step (E30), and a destruction step (E70) of destroying said digital code after said authentication step or after a predetermined time period.

8. (Currently amended) An authentication method according to claim 5, ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that~~ wherein, after said authentication step, ~~it~~ the method further comprises:

a step of said authentication unit (1) sending (E75) an SMS to said mobile equipment (3), said SMS comprising the date and the result of said comparison step (E45).

9. (Currently amended) An authentication system connected to an Internet type network, wherein the system ~~being characterized in that~~ it comprises:

means (10) for establishing a communications channel with mobile equipment (3) via a secure mobile telephone network (GSM);

send means (20) for sending a digital code to a terminal (2) connected to said Internet type network;

receive means (10) for receiving via said mobile communications channel (GSM) a sound signal from said mobile equipment (3), the sound signal being generated by the terminal (2) on the basis of said digital code; and

authentication means (100) for authenticating the user (U) of said mobile equipment (3) as a function:

of said sound signal received via said mobile communications channel (GSM);  
and

of an identifier (GSM\_No) of said mobile equipment (3).

10. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said mobile equipment (3) is a mobile telephone and said authentication means take account of the identifier (GSM\_No) of said mobile equipment as constituted by its telephone number.

11. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said mobile equipment (3) complies with the GSM standard, and said decision means are adapted to authorize or refuse access by taking account of the identifier of said mobile equipment as constituted by its IMEI code.

12. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~any one of claims 9 to 11, characterized in that it~~ wherein the system further comprises means (70) for creating a digital audio file on the basis of said digital code, said digital audio file being adapted to run automatically on the terminal (2) to generate said sound signal.

13. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~any one of claims 9 to 12, characterized in that it~~ wherein the system further comprises:

means (80) for sampling said sound signal; and

identification means (90) suitable for comparing the result of said sampling with a copy of said digital code stored by said authentication unit (1).

14. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~any one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that~~ wherein said sound signal is a DTMF code sequence.

15. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 9, ~~any one of claims 9 to 14, characterized in that it~~ wherein the system further comprises:

means (60) for randomly generating said digital code; and

destruction means (95) adapted to destroy said digital code on receiving an order from said identification means (90) or after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

16. (Currently amended) An authentication system according to claim 13, ~~any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that it~~ wherein the system further comprises means (11) for sending an SMS to said mobile equipment (3), said SMS comprising the date and the result obtained by the identification means (90).